



COMPUTER SCIENCE

in

ARKANSAS



WINNERS OF THE GREAT ARKANSAS HISTORY VIDEO GAME CODING COMPETITION

The Arkansas Department of Education Office of Computer Science is pleased to announce the winners of the third annual Great Arkansas History Video Game Coding Competition. The competition was open to middle school students, with competitors creating a game around the theme: "My Favorite Arkansas Town."

The winners are listed below, with each member of the first-place team receiving \$1,000 each, placed in an Arkansas Brighter Future 529 Plan.

- First Place: Arkansas Arts Academy in Rogers
 - Students: Corissa Arnold, Frankie Barber, and Grant Lovatt-Sutton
 - Sponsor: Mai Le
- Second Place: Lonoke Middle School in Lonoke
 - Students: Graham Biles, Kylee Bell, Mason Hambrick, Estrella Lopez, Blake Rudder, and Eli Quintanilla
 - Sponsor: Cathy Flenor
- Third Place: Holt Middle School in Fayetteville
 - Student: Josephine Doss
 - Sponsors: Luke Schafer and Tayla Terral



"The CSforAR team was highly impressed by the quantity and quality of the submissions," John Hart, a statewide computer science specialist, said. "More students from around the state competed this year, with multiple schools holding local competitions to determine their entries for the state competition. We are excited to start the fourth year of the competition this fall."

GREAT ARKANSAS HISTORY VIDEO GAME CODING COMPETITION CONT

Honorable Mentions (in no particular order) are listed below.

- Conway Junior High School in Conway
 - Students: Brody Mercer, Bowen Cathcart, and Ethan Brock
 - Sponsor: Jennifer Abels
- Holt Middle School in Fayetteville
 - Students: Cedar Bowling and Anders Mooney
 - Sponsors: Luke Schafer and Tayla Terral
- Lake Hamilton Junior High School in Percy
 - Students: Alayna Kincannon and Emily Goodman
 - Sponsor: Ashley Kincannon
- The Anthony School in Little Rock
 - Students: Haley Ragland, Keira Blanchet, Reese Henry, Campbell Beazley, Claire Steliga, and Edie Ward
 - Sponsor: Jeremy Teeter
- Arkansas Arts Academy in Rogers
 - Students: Wyatt Bowerman, Colton Watson, Waylon Frank, Maddox Kimball, and Trevyr Woods
 - Sponsor: Jeremy Teeter



Additional information about the contest can be found at <http://bit.ly/ARCSHistComp>. Submitted games will be linked on that webpage.



Schedule your Learning Blade Back to School Professional Development



Dear AR CS Teacher/Leaders,

Are you looking for CS PD for your back-to-school teacher PD days? Request a free back-to-school PD with Learning Blade, email us at info@learningblade.com with desired dates and times for a 60 or 90-minute PD.

Our back-to-school PD will cover the new **Intro to Coding course** (designed to support AR schools with the 5-week Coding Block requirement), how to integrate the 400 online interdisciplinary STEM/CS/CTE lessons, and a review of the 100 plus hours of PBL hands-on lesson plans. **Students can't be what they can't see.**

This is why after using Learning Blade there is a 55% increase in students' interest in computer science career pathways.

We look forward to supporting your school district with CS, STEM and CTE career-connected lessons.

MEET THE NEW COMPUTER SCIENCE SPECIALISTS

The CSforAR Team is excited to announce, that as of July 1st, we will be welcoming three new Computer Science Specialists! Their names and faces are not strangers to the CS community, and many of you probably already know them in some capacity. Get to know the new members below!



ADAM MUSTO

"My first memory with technology was playing the first Mario on the NES. I was around 4 years old. I didn't think much of it at the time other than it was a fun game to play. I got my first computer at home in the mid 90s. No one I lived with knew anything about computers, so I learned by playing around with it. That experience is what made me realize technology was special. When I started my job at the ADE Division of Career and Technical Education as the STEM

Program Coordinator, I hadn't had much exposure to CS. But that position allowed me to work closely with the CS team, learning more about CS and getting to know the awesome CS team. When the opportunity presented itself to join the CS team, I couldn't pass it up." - Adam Musto

You can reach Adam starting July 1st at adam.musto@ade.arkansas.gov.

ASHLEY KINCANNON

"My first memory of being wholly engaged with technology comes from my first year of teaching. I attended the Schools Without Walls conference, which used to be a technology conference that was held in Hot Springs, AR. At the conference, I was totally amazed at the power of technology and how it could transform my classroom. Because I was an eager, ambitious first-year teacher, I went back to my classroom and implemented everything I had learned. I knew technology was special when I saw the power it had to enrich what I was doing as a teacher.



Although I began my career as an English teacher, I quickly fell more in love with technology through each passing year of my career. My mentor and colleague, Karma Turner, transitioned from teaching Math to teaching CS. Each time I visited her classroom, I was in awe of how CS was impacting her students. I just wanted to stay there and be part of the magic that was taking place." - Ashley Kincannon

You can reach Ashley starting July 1st at ashley.kincannon@ade.arkansas.gov.

STACY REYNOLDS



"My path is very non-traditional. I obtained my Computer Information Systems degree from the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Afterwards, I had no idea what to do with that degree so I sold car insurance for two years. At this point, an opportunity to work as a paraprofessional in a computer lab became available. This is where my love for putting technology into the hands of students started. The very next year, I began teaching as a fourth grade math / science teacher. Fast forward 9 years, I became the Elementary Stem Facilitator in which

I was responsible for assisting teachers implement a hands-on approach to cross-curricular activities in their classrooms. This included introducing computer science to students as young as kindergarten. The conversations, the excitement, and the learning that took place in those classrooms is what drove my passion for CS." - Stacy Reynolds

You can reach Stacy starting July 1st at stacy.reynolds@ade.arkansas.gov.

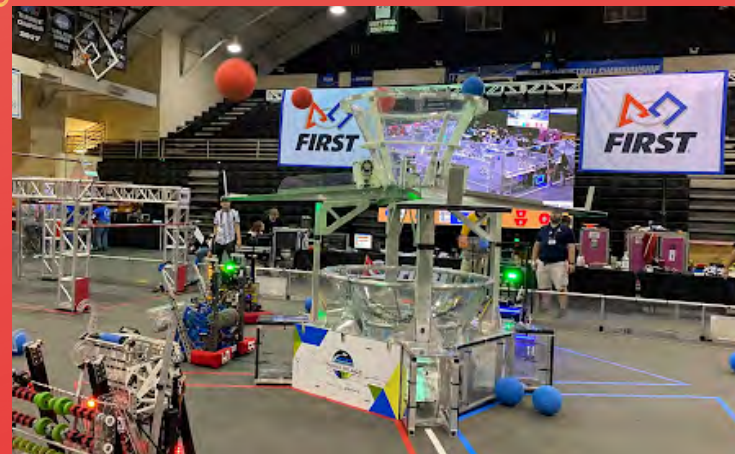
ROBOTICS COMPETITIONS SHOWCASE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The following two articles were submitted by CS Specialist Alex Moeller. You can contact him at alex.moeller@ade.arkansas.gov.

It's easy to see what makes competitive Robotics as appealing as it is: all you have to do is attend one event. One event will show students collaborating to achieve objectives in creative and innovative ways all while having a great deal of fun. Robotics competitions come in many different forms, but none of them would be possible without the hardworking volunteers, mentors, and coaches that help provide students with these opportunities.

This year, teams of students built robots to pick things up, throw things, push things, move around autonomously, and more. Oftentimes, the best of these teams advance to a higher level (a world championship, for example).

Arkansas has the honor of having some wonderfully efficient teams who go on to advance, and these teams come from all over the state. Some of the more popular Robotics competitions are BEST, FIRST, and Vex Robotics (among others). Look up a team near you, and if one doesn't exist, consider starting one!



JACKSONVILLE STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE CYBER SKILLS

Jacksonville High School students (led by their teacher Mr. James Houston) demonstrated their cybersecurity skills by presenting cybersecurity and programming projects they had completed to industry professionals, university representatives, and other community stakeholders in an event called “Jacksonville High School’s Annual Cybersecurity Demonstration Day”.

As a student came in to present, other students in their group worked diligently to attack a “box”, where they leveraged their cybersecurity skills and collaborated to complete one or more objectives. Students presented about topics such as: RSA Encryption, port scanning, ransomware, programming, exploiting binary files, and more.

As these students complete projects, they develop write-ups to communicate their progress and approach. This event allowed students and various representatives to network in a way that brings the classroom closer to industry and vice versa.



ROSE BUD COMPETES AT WORLDS

The following article was submitted by Alicia Turley, Robotics teacher from Rose Bud High School.

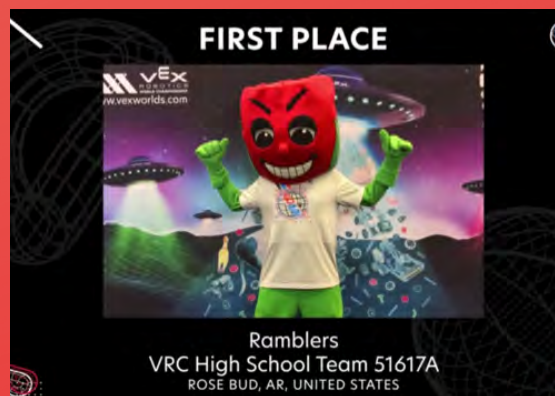
"Rose Bud had a first year competing team this school year. We started building and competing late in the season. Most start in August...we started in February. We competed in two events in February and qualified for State. At State, our Skills score qualified us for Worlds in Dallas, Texas.

Worlds was a blast. Our kids did great, especially for a first year competing team. There were so many coaches/teams there that were in awe of our guys after they realized they qualified for Worlds their first year. We met people from all over the world!! We also met people from Tesla, NASA, & AutoDesk. There were 818 HS teams there. We ended this season with a Skills rank of 163 and were ranked 46 in our division. Out of the 818 high school teams, VEX gave out only 145 awards. Two of those went to Arkansas...Rose Bud and Jonesboro!



After every season is over, teams are left with game elements that serve no purpose any longer. We wanted to turn them into something useful so, we made lamps! The team thoroughly enjoyed wiring up their own lamp to be able to use at home. We had one goal that was signed by teams we saw at Worlds & that one will be a lamp for our Robotics lab. I was contacted this week by VEX Robotics agents from Taiwan. She saw our Facebook post about our repurposed game elements & wanted to include our team's story & lamp pictures on their FB Fan Page. She wrote, "Our teammates love this creative thinking and think it will be a great idea to inspire our students. We hope this activity can bring new & special meanings to those old game elements that are already retired from the competitions."

We were also notified yesterday that we won First place in the costume contest at Worlds. The kids were just as excited about finding this out as they were when we won the Energy trophy for our division at Worlds!" - Alicia Turley



TSA STUDENTS GO TO NATIONALS

The following article's information was provided by Patrick Sawatsky, DCTE STEM Program Advisor.

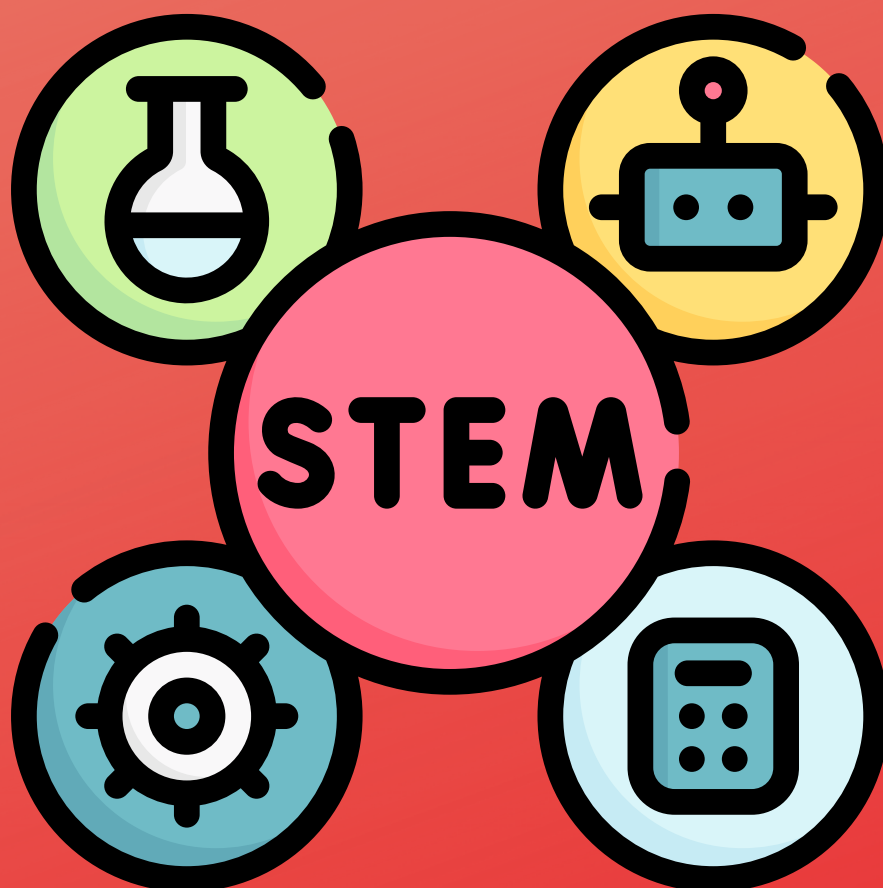
Arkansas students are heading to Dallas, Texas for the "Discover Your Journey" 2022 National Technology Student Association (TSA) Conference! Students will be competing in Animatronics, Architectural Design, CAD Engineering, VEX Robotics, Video Game Design, and much more. Students from all across the US will come together to compete in various STEM fields.

Arkansas has 79 students and advisors from nine high schools going to the TSA National Conference:

- Alma High School
- Manila High School
- Van Buren High School
- Siloam Springs High School
- Star City High School
- Rogers High School
- Elkins High School
- Sheridan High School
- Lake Hamilton High School



The National TSA Conference gives students opportunities to compete with students from across the US, participate in leadership training, and explore STEM education and career options. It also gives advisors opportunities to participate in special interest sessions and educator meetings, and to network with TSA advisors and others from across the US!



MEET THE NEW CS INTERN



Meet Mason! The CSforAR Team is excited to have him aboard for the 2022 summer. Mason is a computer engineering major at the University of Alabama, and enjoys the outdoors and athletics, music and art, as well as gaming and tech.

"I'm interested in computer science because I believe that it's a subject and a skill that can be applied to nearly any career field in an effective way, which is why I think supporting the initiative is very beneficial to kids' futures. I'm very thankful for this opportunity and I'm excited to work with the team." - Mason Wright

The CSforAR Team is looking forward to a fantastic summer with Mason on the team. Are you interested in becoming a future CSforAR summer intern? If so, be sure to contact csforar@ade.arkansas.gov.

COMPUTER SCIENCE SUMMER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

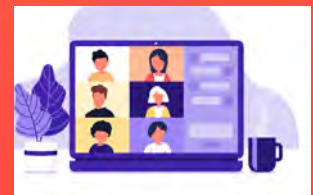
The CSforAR Team is currently offering Summer 2022 Professional Development sessions. All current offerings can be found by visiting the ADE Computer Science [Professional Development Schedule](#), or here at bit.ly/CSforARPD.

Be sure to sign up today! You can email any questions to csforar@ade.arkansas.gov.



UPCOMING TRAINING

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